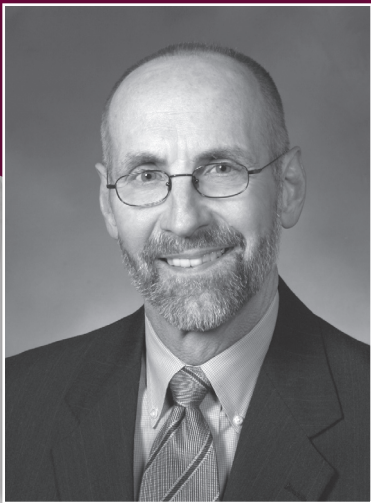


Rep. Larry Springer



Majority Caucus Liaison

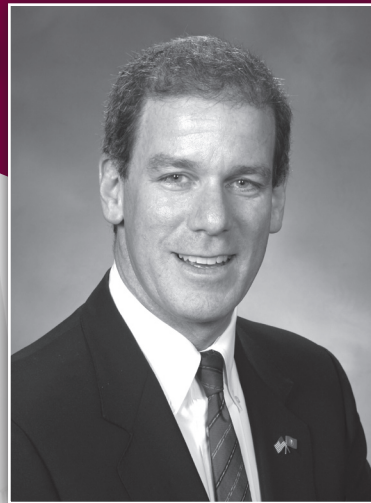
Committees: Finance, Transportation, Rules
Local Government & Housing

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**Larry Springer &
Roger Goodman**

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Report from the 45th District

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TOWN HALL MEETING

Saturday, March 14th

11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Redmond City Council
Chambers, City Hall
15670 NE 85th St.,
Redmond, WA 98073

Report from the 45th District

**Rep. Larry
Springer**

**Rep. Roger
Goodman**

Dear Neighbors,

We are in extraordinary times. In Olympia, we are in session dealing with the largest budget deficit in state history. It now appears the deficit will exceed \$8 billion over the next two years.

There is a lot of uncertainty about this recession. Business and political leaders are focused on doing what they can to lessen the impact of the downturn and get Washington on the road to recovery.

In the meantime, please let us know if there is something the state can be doing. We are looking at significant cuts, but we also need to pass a responsible budget. In times like these, Washington will need us all to do our part.

Thank you in advance for your emails, phone calls and visits.

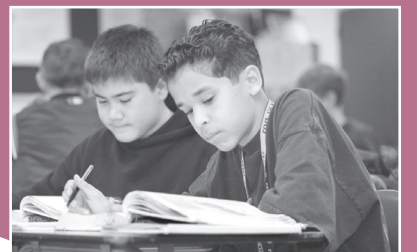
Larry and Roger



Budget & Education

Given the current budget circumstances, we are faced with difficult decisions every day. However, our focus is first and foremost to address the issues that are most important to you. We will pass a budget in Olympia that does our best to meet the immediate needs of the people today while still investing in our future. Surely this will be a tough task, but it is our responsibility, as elected officials, to keep moving forward.

We understand that providing our children with a top notch education today means graduating our youth into better careers tomorrow. We will continue to fight for our schools. The benefit of educational opportunities is priceless, which is exactly why we cannot afford to ignore the needs of our students.



Rep. Larry Springer

Implementing efficient government practices

I will continue to search for new ways to make government more efficient and responsive. In many cases, the current budget downfall has provided us with an opportunity to take a closer look at how we do things in Olympia.

I've introduced House Bill 2151, which will eliminate a number of boards, committees, and commissions. I've also introduced House Bill 2157, which consolidates certain salmon recovery activities and programs within the Recreation and Conservation Office. These bills will help us consolidate services and identify more efficient practices, resulting in significant budget savings.

Securing homeowner protection

Last year, I led a workgroup to create legislation for homeowner protection from shoddy construction practices by both home builders and remodelers. In response to that research, I've introduced



House Bill 1393, which addresses a growing trend in construction defects in new homes by assuring that construction workers are properly trained prior to building. This legislation also provides home buyers with legal remedies and creates a primary point of contact for them in the event that the home they've purchased is facing construction defects.

Sustaining nonprofits

I've introduced a bill this session that helps sustain Washington's nonprofit community by making it easier for nonprofits to rent their facilities. House Bill 1304 increases the number of days that nonprofit art, scientific, historical, and performing arts organizations may rent their tax exempt property to for-profit users from 25 to 50 days a year.

State law currently penalizes business practices that could create revenue for both nonprofit property owners and the state. This bill will help us break down those barriers.



Rep. Roger Goodman

Safe roads & neighborhoods

Last session we passed drunk driving legislation to better monitor offenders and save lives—possibly 100 lives a year. This year I'm proposing a small change (HB 1732) to ensure the program is as effective as possible in making our roads safer.

I continue to serve on the Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee and have sponsored several measures in this area. We want to plan, not just react, to major disasters. HB 1039 will create a statewide response program for any chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear or explosive event. Closer to home, we're also proposing in HB 1222 to ban dangerous electrical shock devices from schools.

Improving our courts and criminal justice system

Through my work as a lawyer and with the King County Bar Association, I run into issues every day in need of common-sense solutions. One of the big problems though is that our courts are overbooked and underfunded. I have several pieces of legislation this year to try and alleviate this problem for local courts.

A policy I'm pursuing will save our state and local budgets by getting people that need mental health or substance-abuse treatment the help they need, rather than ignoring their issue and just locking them up repeatedly. Offenders deserving of time behind bars need to spend time in jail. But if they have drug or alcohol addictions, let's work to help them get cleaned up for their families and keep them out of our jails in the future.

Voting for president as a nation, not states

The way we choose our president is antiquated. A number of times in our history, presidential candidates not receiving the most votes nationally have still been selected as the winners, and this violates the fundamental democratic principle of "one person, one vote." Our current state-by-state, winner-take-all rules are a vestige of the Civil War and only a few "swing states," such as Ohio and Florida, get attention from the presidential candidates, while Washington and most other states get ignored. We can do better, and that's what House Bill 1598 aims to do. Once enough states adopt this measure, the presidential candidate who wins the most votes nationally will be chosen as the winner, and this means that each American citizen's vote will be finally counted the same.



Rep. Larry Springer
Rep. Roger Goodman

Report from the 45th District

